

2nd July 1957]

III.—GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1957-58—*cont.*

* DR. T. V. SIVANANDAM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Budget. I support it not because I happen to be one of the members of the ruling party and not also because my esteemed Friend, the Hon. the Finance Minister has delivered a fine Budget speech on the floor of the House but because it contains many good things. The financial position of the State and the financial policy of the Government have been well brought out in the Budget. One good feature we find in the Budget is that there are no new taxes proposed. At a time when the Union Government have levied several new taxes and at a time when the Government of the neighbouring Communist State of Kerala have levied several new taxes, naturally we have been fearing that the Government of Madras will also follow suit and bring in several new measures of taxation. But what we actually find is that there are absolutely no new taxes. There is, of course, a cry about sales tax on food-grains. After all, it is a negligible one. Secondly, the sales tax has been rounded off on account of the introduction of the decimal system of coinage. It is a good thing that it has been done. If it is not done, poor people would be put to a lot of difficulties as they are ignorant and illiterate and the merchants would collect more tax than what is due.

There is an increase in the rate of agricultural income-tax in respect of plantations. That is also not a new tax but only an increase in the rate of an old tax. If the Finance Minister dropped this tax, then practically there would be no tax at all proposed in the Budget and we would have to celebrate the occasion in this House by offering a white gloves to the Finance Minister for producing a Budget without any taxes.

The Finance Minister has given us documentary evidence about the progress of the various projects under execution. I wonder whether even the Members of this House have known all this. I would, therefore, suggest to the Government to do some propaganda and show to the people at large what they have done, and what they propose to do in future.

Regarding animal husbandry, the Government have started several key village schemes and they are working well. During the last meeting of the Council, I said that green fodder was necessary for the cattle and that the Government should take steps to provide large quantities of green fodder. I reiterate that suggestion now.

Several irrigation projects like the Amaravati, the Krishnagiri and the Sattanur Projects are coming up and are almost nearing completion. This is a welcome thing.

About 360 seed farms are being started wherefrom improved seeds are proposed to be distributed. I hope this will go a long way in improving the lot of the agriculturist and the common man.

[Dr. T. V. Sivanandam] [2nd July 1957]

Some of the burning problems of the day are not, however, touched upon in this Budget. I should like to refer to one or two of them. One is admission to professional colleges. I would like to appeal to the Government and through the Government to the Selection Committees in professional colleges, especially the Medical College, to give preference to sons and daughters of medical men in the matter of admission. You know, Sir, medical education is costly and one has to spend thousands and even lakhs of rupees in setting up practice and opening nursing homes, etc. Government must make it their duty to reserve a few seats for the sons and daughters of medical men. Recently, when the reorganisation of States took place, it was decided, I understand, that 26 seats or so in the medical colleges in this State should be reserved for persons coming from Kerala. We are, therefore, offering them these seats at the cost of the facilities for our own boys and girls. Why not we offer these seats to the sons and daughters of medical men, or increase the number of seats and offer those seats to them? There are several medical men with one or two children whom they could send to the Medical College. If you say 'no' to them, then their equipment and everything will go to waste.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Government are prepared to take them over.

* DR. T. V. SIVANANDAM: What I say is, if they are given an opportunity, they will learn well and equip themselves better since they will have an aptitude for the medical profession. Sir, Tamil Nad, though it has not been given that name officially as yet, is a cosmopolitan State wherein people from Kerala, Andhra, Karnataka and other places have come and settled. They are domiciled Tamils. They have put in applications for admission to the medical college here. Instead of viewing their applications as from outsiders, I would like the Government to view them as our own persons who have come here for their security and safety, leaving their own native State.

Then, Sir, about the influenza epidemic that is raging throughout the length and breadth of the country, I am of the view that the Government have not come forward to take proper measures. We have seen that several persons have been affected. They call the attack a mild one but only those who have been affected know what the disease is. The lay Press prescribes all sorts of things, and what is the result? Medicines are hoarded and black-marketed. As soon as people read the remedies published in the papers, they purchase the medicines and hoard them. I know very well that the Coimbatore Municipality sent wires after wires to a medical stores for supply of tablets. It took ten days for the medicine to come. But till then the cases could not wait and we had to get the medicine from other sources and give it to the suffering people. In Madras City the Government worked well in dealing with this epidemic. But we cannot judge the work done in the whole State from what was done in Madras City. Most of the municipalities

2nd July 1957] [Dr. T. V. Sivanandam]

suffered much for want of medicine. The same lay Press named injections to combat the complication of the disease and the next day those injections disappeared from the market. There were black-marketing and hoarding of these and we were not able to give medicine to people who suffered from 'flu.

Now, Sir, as early as 1953 the Deputy Director of the Pasteur Institute told us that 'flu was breaking out as a vicious circle once in twenty years. It came in 1917, again in 1937, and he told us that it would be coming in 1957. It came. The 'flu that came was only of a mild type and we have yet to face a severe type of 'flu and when it comes somewhere in November or January, it has been said, it will take a heavy toll of human lives.

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIAR: I would request the hon. and distinguished Member not to add fright to 'flu. (Laughter.)

* DR. T. V. SIVANANDAM: The Government did not take proper care to stop the spread of 'flu. We rushed to Tanjore and Nagapattinam when there was cyclone there. This epidemic 'flu was as severe as that. There the people died and we had to rehabilitate those who were badly affected. Here the disease sapped the vitality of the Nation. The manpower was lost. We know that several industries and mills had to be closed because large bodies of men were attacked by this disease. Practically, much of the manpower needed for the industry and Government work was reduced. Hereafter at least, Government should come forward to take necessary and early steps in all places in the State to tackle this disease, if it should come, at any and every cost.

Sir, it has been said that the agricultural rural credit department of the Reserve Bank of India is to be transferred to the State Bank of India. Practically, I can say that it has come from the horse's mouth. Before the Bill is introduced in the Parliament, it is our duty to see that such a thing does not happen. During the past fifty-five years or so, the co-operative banks have worked. Even the Report of the Rural Credit Survey Committee of the Reserve Bank has said definitely that agricultural credit requirements could be met only by the co-operatives, and co-operation is the only thing that will succeed in this field. Now, if the rural credit department of the Reserve Bank were to be transferred to the State Bank of India, it will not be possible for poor people and agriculturists in the villages to derive any sort of the benefit through the State Bank of India which would not be the case if this work were taken over by the non-official co-operative agencies and the Co-operative Central Bank, who are actually in direct contact with agriculturists. It has been said that instead of the Reserve Bank of India giving the money to the State Co-operative Bank, they would give the money to the State Bank of India and that then from the State Bank of India the Co-operative Banks would be getting the money. In this transaction they will be adding at least one per cent more. The money which we are now

[Dr. T. V. Sivanandam] [2nd July 1957]

giving to the agriculturists at an interest of $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent will then have to be given at $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. This will only cause hardship to the agriculturists. Then, it has been said that if the department were transferred to the State Bank of India, it would open branches in several places and distribute the loans to agriculturists. Even here there is a snag. The State Bank of India is only a commercial Bank and it has no contact with the masses or the agriculturists. But, if it were transferred to the Co-operative Bank managed by non-officials, they will run it for the benefit of the agriculturists. I do not think that the State Bank of India, even if it opens branches at taluk level, will be able to get on which its business well. The only Scheduled Bank which is able to work at the taluk headquarters level is the Indian Bank. Such being the case, it will not be possible for the co-operatives to get any sort of help from the State Bank of India. Hence, I request the Government, before it is too late, if there is any idea to introduce such a Bill, to stop it. If it is introduced, it will be a disaster to the co-operative movement and it will in effect mean the liquidation of Co-operative Banks. I would, therefore, request the Government to take up this matter seriously and as early as possible and see that such a Bill is not introduced in the Parliament.

Regarding hospitals and dispensaries, certain of the recommendations made by the Estimates Committee require to be thought over. It is the policy of the Government to have male nursing system. I have been working in a hospital for the past twenty years ever since that system was introduced. We have all sympathy for these male nurses. But, after the advent of the system, what we find is that the general efficiency of the female nurses and of the nursing system has gone below par. That being the case, I think the male nursing system should be abolished. But then, the question will arise, 'What to do with those who are already there?' They may be posted to the Mental Hospital or to the Venereal department, Blood Bank, etc. I can give another suggestion also. The male nurses, after a training of six months or one year, can be posted as Health Assistants in primary centres in rural areas. What do we find in these Community Development Project areas and National Extension Service areas? Some doctors are posted there. They do not remain there at all. There are several reasons why they do not remain there. One is that they have just come from the college and that they want to be in fashionable places and in towns. They do not like to be in rural areas. They are not confident of giving treatment to others. Then, they do not like to be in places where they get only ordinary cases. That being the case; for primary centres we must post people who have already worked for at least 10 or 15 years and not those who have passed out of the colleges recently. If those who have some training are posted, they can do some real service to the people. Regarding rural dispensaries, we find that most of them are not running properly. It is because the remuneration given to the doctors is too low and

2nd July 1957] [Dr. T. V. Sivanandam]

the medicines supplied to them are very few. Hence, I submit that there must be provincialisation of rural dispensaries at as early a date as possible.

Then, Sir, the non-gazetted officers are being treated in our hospitals. If the hospital supplies the medicines, we get medicine at a discount of 20 per cent from the dealers. What we do now is this. If a non-gazetted officer comes to the hospital and he requires medicine, we ask him to buy the medicine in the open market. The price of the medicine in the open market is definitely more when compared to the cost of the medicine supplied by the hospital. If the District Medical Officer is given power to have the medicines bought by himself, he will get them at 20 per cent less cost, so much so even the expenditure that is being incurred by the Government on reimbursement of the cost of medicines will become far less. The Leader of the Opposition was in Coimbatore the other day and he came to the hospital at a time when we were performing an operation. It was a hot day. It was very sultry. It is not only difficult for the surgeon to do the operation, but it is difficult to cope with the patient also. In the Budget, I find that they are going to have six air-conditioned theatres in the General Hospital. Why this injustice, Sir? The same operations are being done in the district hospitals also. The Leader of the Opposition has seen how we are rotting in our theatres in Coimbatore. The Budget shows that six air-conditioned theatres will be introduced in the General Hospital here.

3-30
p.m.

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIAR: I think this is only a beginning.

* DR. T. V. SIVANANDAM: The same thing can be extended to the district hospitals also. The Leader of the Opposition has himself seen in Coimbatore that two or three surgeons have got to be doing operation at the same time in one theatre.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Why is this Nature's injustice, Sir? Coimbatore is cooler than Madras. (Laughter.)

* DR. T. V. SIVANANDAM: We have to get on with our work.

Sir, the honorary medical officer system—though I am an honorary surgeon, I am not blowing my own trumpet—has kept up very well and splendidly in Madras State. This being the case, instead of raising the service cadre, wherever necessary we can increase the number of honorary Medical Officers. This system is working very well. It is not for me to say this. Several people have said this. I suggest that the honorary system should be extended to all other hospitals also. The hospital in Coimbatore is there for several years and has a good amount of surgery work and other cases. There is the possibility of opening a medical college also there, because all the clinical requirements can be had. We want a deep X-ray therapy plant. We have asked for this for

[Dr. T. V. Sivanandam] [2nd July 1957]

several years past. We thought that at least in this Budget provision would be made for a deep X-ray therapy plant. I am sorry to note that no provision has been made for this in this Budget.

When I speak of the subject of linen that is being supplied to the hospital, I do not want any one to presume that I am against the khadi movement. Khadi is being supplied to the hospitals. I am sorry to state the actual fact. The khadi linen supplied to the hospitals is four times costlier than ordinary mill cloth. Because it is khadi, we are prepared to pay that cost. Besides, it is the policy of the Government to encourage the use of khadi. In hospitals the linen is being sterilised. At the second or third sterilisation, khadi cloth is destroyed and it is absolutely of no use. Not only have we to pay four times the cost of the mill cloth, but the cloth also is not serviceable for a longer time. This is the difficulty we are facing. Even the bedsheets do not last longer. In the hospital, we have got to sterilise them at frequent intervals. This linen that is supplied is not durable. I say that we need not go anywhere for getting good linen. There is the Central Jail with a spinning plant. Here we can have ten counts yarn to produce bedsheets and cotton blankets. Cotton blankets and bedsheets can be manufactured here. Towels also can be had. Very old machines are kept in the jail. I find in the Budget that a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs has been sanctioned for their replacement. I cannot, by any stretch of imagination, understand how this small sum will in any way be sufficient for the renewal of the spinning plant. The spinning plant is there for several years past. It will require more than Rs. 7 lakhs for replacement. Another one lakh of rupees can be spent for waste spinning plant, so much so cotton bedsheets and cotton blankets can be manufactured in Coimbatore itself. We can supply these to all the hospitals throughout the State. Even though the initial cost will be high, in the long run we can save a large amount of money. Even last year, I requested the Minister in charge of Jails to look into the matter and see that concrete steps were taken at a very early date.

Sir, there are a number of ways by which the revenues of the Government can be increased. When we go through the Audit Report on the Appropriation Accounts, we find that there are several irregularities and defects. If the defects and irregularities are properly looked into and if the people take into their heads to see that public money is spent properly, they can actually save lakhs and lakhs of rupees. I do not hesitate to say that the deficit of Rs. 333 lakhs will become far less if there is proper management and administration in every department.

People say that Prohibition is a failure. To a certain extent, Prohibition is a success because nobody so far could get toddy or foreign liquor. But illicit distillation of arrack is being carried on everywhere, so much so the people who are drinking now are more than those who were drinking before. We have got to tackle

2nd July 1957]

[Dr. T. V. Sivanandam]

'this problem. We have got to see that people who are in charge of the department deal with the problem effectively. The general public say that the Police are conniving with the illicit distillers, and that they are periodically sending some to jail on conviction. Sir, whenever Ministries change, whenever a new Prohibition Minister comes to office, we can see in the papers in the first month several Prohibition cases being tried and guilty persons convicted of the offence. But unless and until the Police sincerely work, Prohibition will never be a complete success. In this respect, I request the Government to see that the Police do their work sincerely. At the same time, they have got to think of the Police constables. They connive with the illicit distillers. Why? It is because they are very poor and they are meagrely paid. When they catch hold of the people who are illicitly distilling arrack, they must be rewarded properly. If they are rewarded properly, surely they will take interest in detecting cases. In the courts, the magistrates impose very small fines like Rs. 5 on Prohibition offenders. Or, they sentence the offenders to undergo imprisonment for ten days. This punishment is nothing for the offenders. They remain in the jail and come out. They treat it as a periodic affair. Therefore, unless the Police and the court join together and sincerely work for the good of the country, Prohibition will never be a successful scheme.

SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAI: The Police and the Court will never join together. That will mean going against the principle of meting out justice.

* DR. T. V. SIVANANDAM: We must bring forward an amendment to the Prohibition Act to the effect that Prohibition offenders must be fined a minimum of Rs. 200 or sentenced to imprisonment for a minimum period of six months. If we do this, most of the people will not commit the offence. If we reward the Police for the good Prohibition work they do, they will show greater enthusiasm to see that Prohibition is made a complete success. The Police must work sincerely and the magistrates must impose heavy fines on the offenders. If this is done, then surely Prohibition will be a success.

In conclusion, I would like to say that I am glad to note that the Budget has given a good account of what has been done and what the Government are going to do in the near future. What this Government have done all these years and what they are going to do hereafter should all be given good propaganda amongst the masses. This the Government can do only through films and dramas. Hence, I request the Government to give some subsidy or some such help to dramatists and cinema people to see that such good propaganda is carried on in all the nooks and corners of our State. Then, what the Government have done all these years will be known to the public, and surely they will applaud the persons whom they have sent to seats of power.

[Dr. T. V. Sivanandam]

[2nd July 1957]

3-40 Then, I want to refer to one other matter and I shall finish with
p.m. that as the Hon. Chairman is just staring at me. This Budget has not given any impetus for the people to criticise. It just looks like a catalogue of work that has been done and that has to be done. I have got to congratulate the Kamaraj Ministry on the best and ideal Budget that they have presented now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : I have to make an announcement to the House. We will be adjourning at 5 o'clock this evening. As there are a very large number of hon. Members who wish to speak, I allot 15 minutes for each speaker.

* SRI T. M. NARAYANASWAMY PILLAI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I propose to confine myself to the time allotted by the Chair to me. My hon. Friend has already stated that the Budget has been presented in such a good manner as not to allow any criticism. I am not quite sure whether I could agree with him. Whether I agree with him or not in that observation, I have no hesitation in paying my tribute of congratulation to the Hon. the Minister for Finance. The Budget speech no doubt contains a catalogue of things already done and things yet to be done; but, at the same time, if we want to characterize the Budget and enter into the spirit behind it, I cannot but say that it is an able one and one which is sympathetic and that the Finance Minister has not forgotten the permanent interests of our State as a whole.

My hon. Friend the Deputy Leader of the Opposition yesterday gave me a tip as to how I should approach the Budget. He asked me where the State Budget was as it was one tacked on to the Union Budget. I was a little puzzled, and I do not know the implications of his observation. But in the set-up in which we are now working under the Constitution, there is some justification for saying that there is no State Budget separately and no Union Budget separately. This is not an isolated phenomenon. Both have to be taken together in considering what is necessary for the country as a whole. The States no doubt depend upon the Centre for their prosperity and it is conditioned by what is done by the Centre. At the same time, the Centre cannot exist separately. The prosperity of the Centre and the country as a whole depends upon the prosperity of the constituent States. So, in that sense perhaps, both the Budgets have to be viewed together. But I am not going to trespass into the sphere of the Union Budget and try to criticise it. We shall have to remember the background and we shall have to remember that we have to implement our ideals and promote the welfare of the people of the State as a whole.

Now, Sir, taking the Budget of the State, I should say that things which ought to be given prominence have been given such prominence and priority. There is no doubt about the very happy features contained in it and there can be no two opinions. At the same time, there are also features which are less happy, perhaps features to which more attention has to be paid and in respect of

2nd July 1957] [Sri T. M. Narayanaswamy Pillai]

which definite solution has to be found. With regard to what I consider to be very happy features, I have got to say this. Relief has been given to Non-Gazetted Officers, teachers of primary schools and other low-paid staff. Public opinion has been demanding that they should be paid much more. We were really in difficulties. While we realized that they deserved our sympathy, our finances would not permit of their request being granted. But the Government found that they could now give immediate recognition at least to some extent to their claims, and I think the Hon. the Minister for Finance very generously came forward to meet the demands of Non-Gazetted Officers and others. But he did not extend that principle to some other sectors. This help once begun, well begun, generously begun, ought to be extended to all those who are placed in a similar position. I shall take the earliest opportunity to detail those sectors.

We are always thinking of the hon. Member Mr. Purushotham as one who is espousing the cause of the village establishment. It is a very critical period and the Government are now thinking of reorganization of the village establishment. I am not going into that question, but I am glad that the Government came forward to help the village officers in getting more emoluments. There was a time when there was difficulty in raising their pay even by one rupee. In those days there was Mr. Stokes who said that an increase in their emoluments even by one or half a rupee would come to about Rs. 25 lakhs and, therefore, he was not prepared to do it. But now we have a generous allotment of an increase of Rs. 7, Rs. 5 and Rs. 4 in the emoluments of these village officers. Therefore, with that help, I am sure, they will be fully contented and we are expected to get from them more contented and more satisfactory work. In this connexion, I must say that I am not in favour of reorganization of the village establishment. Often, an argument is advanced that our work in the villages has increased so much that perhaps a better and more talented village establishment would have to be put in there. But I am not quite sure whether that is right. Ever since Sir Thomas Munroe established the village administration, it has been working satisfactorily and the British were able to get what they wanted. It is not due to the ability of the officers at the highest level but it is due to the loyalty and devotion of the village officers. If we allow them to work in the manner in which they have been working all along without overburdening them with new duties, certainly our village administration would get on well. As for new duties, we are increasing their work by introducing National Extension Service Schemes and other such schemes. For this work new people will have to be trained. Therefore, I feel that the old village establishment should continue to attend to their old duties. The Government cannot think in terms of carrying on the village administration without their services. Nobody could do the work better than the village munsif and other village officers. What we must do is that we must try to distribute the new duties to the new persons who are appointed under the various schemes.

[Sri T. M. Narayanaswamy Pillai] [2nd July 1957]

When I come to the industrial sector, the record is very impressive. The very statement made in the Budget speech makes anyone interested in the State feel very happy. Firstly, there comes the Lignite Project which was inaugurated recently by the Prime Minister. He said that this project was going to revolutionise the industrial activities of the State. It is going to be the beginning of the starting of many industries, the benefit of which will certainly go more to the South, if I may say so, and perhaps will once and for all put a stop to the criticism that the South has been neglected.

3-50
p.m.

Again, we find in the Budget things like starting of an Aluminium Plant, an Iron and Steel Plant, Paper Mills, manufacture of caustic soda, steel tubes and a very formidable array of these things. If these industries are really established in the manner in which they are proposed, surely we need not entertain any feeling of despair in respect of our industries. I for one agree that the future of this State as of this country depends very much on rapid industrialization. It is no use formulating on the one hand schemes of this kind and talking of Khadi and such other things on the other, to which I shall presently refer. It is no use being sentimental about things. Are you going to be sentimental or rational? To the disadvantages of using khadi in hospitals the hon. Member Dr. T. V. Sivanandam has referred, and I would not go further into that.

I shall now refer to one or two points with regard to the less happy features of the Budget. My hon. Friend has already referred to the very generous manner in which the Hon. the Finance Minister has addressed himself to lessening the burdens on the people and all of us should feel grateful to him for his generosity in avoiding the imposition of any new taxes. Of course, that may be due to the psychology of the situation, but the question is how far he could afford to follow that policy. Rightly or wrongly, we are committed to the successful implementation of the Second Plan and it is not certain whether the amount at present allotted for the Plan is sufficient or whether we would require more. In the circumstance, can we avoid imposing new taxes in future? We shall wait. Of course, I will not deal with it further.

I shall now take the less happy features and I shall confine myself to only two or three points. Now, what is it that the Government have said with regard to the rise in prices? What is it that the Government have said with regard to agricultural production? These two are very, very important aspects. I am afraid that the Government have not realized the gravity of the situation and they seem to think that increasing agricultural production is the only way to get over the present difficulties. But then, what about the price factor? Have they realized the extent of the crisis and have they calculated what exactly the food deficit is? I for one think that perhaps the deficit is much more than what the Government have calculated. The other day our Chief Minister, our beloved Chief Minister, said,

2nd July 1957] [Sri T. M. Narayanaswamy Pillai]

when he was in Tiruchirappalli or so, that the food deficit was only about 180,000 tons. I am not sure whether it is correct. I for one do not think that it is correct. Even if the present deficit is 180,000 tons, we have to take into account the increase of 1.5 per cent in the population every year. If that is done, our plan should be such as to increase production so as to meet the growing demands of the growing population. We have problems. We have to solve our difficulties. Therefore, there should be a watchful Government, a careful Government, and a Government which must take all the factors into account. As it is, it does not seem that they have realized the gravity of the problem. That is all what I wish to say at present.

Agricultural production is an important factor, but its importance was not given expression to either in the Governor's Address or in the previous years' Budget speeches. A certain complacency existed. Fortunately, it is given up and the Government seem to be trying to solve the problem. I am glad about it. But what are the means that they are going to adopt? I shall refer only to two points. They say that 136 seed farms are going to be started this year and secondly, that they are going to introduce some improvements in the Agricultural College and in the sale of fertilizers. With regard to the seed farms, I wish to know the number of seed farms that have been planned for the previous year. The number of farms which they have planned or proposed to start in the previous year should be known. I always find a shortfall when once the Budget is over. Government's achievement is not always equal to the thing proposed. What I am anxious about is that the seed farms now proposed to be started should be actually started. If that is so, they should have already decided where these seed farms are to be located and they should be in possession of sites by now. Already four of five months have elapsed in the year. If they do not have all these details, then what is the use of merely presenting a paper scheme? They should not show schemes which they are not able to fulfil. I say this because, exactly we find it to be the case in previous years. It is admitted in the Budget itself that there have been short-falls. There is always a gap between what they propose and what they achieve.

Then, with regard to chemical fertilizers, I wish to say one thing. The Governments, both the Union Government and the State Governments, have been saying that the co-operatives are the best agencies through which to sell these manures. In times of war, they have done that. But, unfortunately, during the last few years, it has not been done. I am entitled to ask 'Why'? Has co-operation failed? That is not the reason. Really they have been trying and they have tried to give a share of these sales to the co-operatives. But why not the whole be given? It has been conceded by the Union Government, the State Governments and the Planning Commission that the co-operatives are the best agencies. But, what then is the reason for withholding a large

[Sri T. M. Narayanaswamy Pillai] [2nd July 1957]

portion of the sales of these chemical manures from the Co-operative department? I am one interested in the Co-operative movement and, therefore, I strongly plead with the Government that this sale should exclusively be made through the co-operative societies and the co-operatives only.

I shall come to the question of improvements to the Agricultural College. Sir, the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture is very sympathetic, very kind and very shrewd. He came to the Annamalai University and saw for himself what we were doing there. There are two aspects, namely, the University could be doing service to the State and the people. I am a believer in the fact that the time is past when Universities could isolate themselves and try to keep aloof in the cloister of seclusion. I think the time has come when Universities should be in touch with the activities of the Government and try to help the Government with their own detached and independent views. Here is an opportunity. We are doing (in the Annamalai University) Extension Service to farmers. The Hon. Minister was pleased with the results and felt that there was every reason to help that work. A Minister from Delhi came there and was similarly satisfied with the results. The Vice-President (I think, of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research) came there and he was also similarly satisfied. I am glad to say that we are ready to place our services at the disposal of the Government and the people. (Two hon. Members were conversing behind the hon. Member Sri Narayanaswamy Pillai who stopped his speech.) (The Hon. Sri R. Venkataraman: It is a talk aside, loud enough to disturb.) I was speaking about the Agricultural College. We are having an Agricultural College not different from that in Coimbatore. With regard to the seed farms, one of the questions is availability of the necessary personnel. The success of a scheme does not depend upon mere sanctioning of money. We require the necessary qualified personnel and the Annamalai University wants to place its services at the disposal of the Government. The difference between Coimbatore and Annamalai University is that we spend less and that they spend more. If the Government are going to spend Rs. 5 lakhs, we would be doing the same thing with Rs. 1.5 lakhs. There is that difference and let us not forget that. Therefore, so far as agricultural production is concerned, it is proposed to give it the topmost priority and the only way to help the country get over the difficulty of prices is to help implement the schemes and thus solve foreign exchange difficulties also. I can say that we can be of help in that sphere.

With regard to the rise in prices, I find a counsel of despair but I am not going to suggest how to solve that problem. I feel that I am far less equipped and I do not pretend that I am equipped enough to face that task. But I have been feeling that it is perhaps one of the most urgent of problems, and I am glad that the Government have realized its urgency and have been trying to

2nd July 1957] [Sri T. M. Narayanaswamy Pillai]

solve it. What I say is this. If they are going on plumping more ^{4 p.m.} money into the industrial sector and if they continue to import agricultural products, thereby creating more and more difficulties in the matter of foreign exchange, how are they going to solve this problem of rise in prices? As years go on, the problem must be much more intensive and severe. That would be the greatest menace to the implementation of the Second Five-Year Plan. However, now there is a better awareness among the people who are in charge of our administration that something more has to be done if we are to solve the real problem. I am sorry, Sir, I am unable to suggest anything myself.

With regard to the remarks made by Dr. Sivanandam about khadi—he said more than a crore of rupees had been spent on it—I do not want to say much because I do not want that I should be accused, belonging as I do to a different party. There is also another reason. Khadi is associated with the name of a great man, a name we revere most. But is it right to go on extending the use of khadi irrespective of the economics thereof? Let us not be sentimental. Let us be rational. Use khadi for purposes for which it is absolutely essential. Do not use it for all purposes. That is all what I would say. If I say more, I am likely to be misunderstood. I am not a man who would merely indulge in some phrases for the sake of doing it.

Then, Sir, with regard to admission to medical colleges in the State, I am a bit surprised at the hon. Member's suggestion that the sons and daughters of medical men should be provided reservation.

DR. T. V. SIVANANDAM : I said ' preference '.

* SRI T. M. NARAYANASWAMY PILLAI : Preference is another way of reservation. I am not against medical men. On the other hand, I am a follower of the hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : A very distinguished member of the profession.

* SRI T. M. NARAYANASWAMY PILLAI : I am one who has always got the highest sympathy for the aspirants to the medical profession and still I am surprised at the suggestion made by the noted and reputed medical gentleman, Dr. T. V. Sivanandam. Where is the end, if we go on demanding reservation after reservation? We have had enough difficulties and more in the matter of admission to professional colleges. One of the most important of the problems we face is the one relating to one's psychology and sentiment. It is a long way through which we have been travelling. Do not throw another difficulty in the way. That is my appeal to the hon. Member. If doctors' sons and daughters are to be provided seats, then Ministers' sons and daughters may as well have to be provided.

[2nd July 1957]

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : As Ministers please.
(Laughter.)

DR. V. K. JOHN : Ministers' sons for ministerial jobs.

* SRI T. M. NARAYANASWAMY PILLAI : Yes. Are you going to agree to that proposition? I am afraid the whole thing becomes then *reductio ad absurdum*.

SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAJ : Even if the Government make a provision like that, it will be challenged in a court of law.

* SRI T. M. NARAYANASWAMY PILLAI : Let us have some humour.

DR. V. K. JOHN : Has the Chief Minister any such problem?
(Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : He has no such problem.

* SRI T. M. NARAYANASWAMY PILLAI : I think it cannot be said that the Committee that selects candidates does not give any weight at all to the fact that they are the sons or daughters of medical men; I think they do bear in mind the whole background of the candidates in their assessment of their worth. That may help them a little. It helps them indirectly and so, I would ask my Friend not to ask for reservation for medical men's children.

Sir, on the whole, while I congratulate the Hon. the Finance Minister and the Government on producing a Budget which cannot be better in the circumstances, and while the public are grateful to them for the lightening of the taxation burden, three things have to be borne in mind—agricultural production, the problem of rise in price and the difficult foreign exchange position. There is also much talk about the administrative machinery being top-heavy. It is also an important question. After all, we in the Legislature cannot function effectively unless we are supported in every way by our officers. But I find with regard to our officers, there is a kind of deterioration setting in. They must be asked to share responsibilities. They must be asked to do what is right without fear or favour. I know some old people who have now retired and who, when in service, did their duty without lassitude, vacillation and doubt. If a person is a Collector, he does his duty subject to his orders being revised by the Board of Revenue or the Government. Such officers must be in charge of district administration now. With regard to Police administration, there is a situation now obtaining which may develop into one which will not be helpful to the maintenance of law and order. I have already drawn the attention of the Government to this and I hope they will do what is necessary to rectify matters.

Lastly, I am glad that the Government have thought of appointing a Special Officer to go into the service requirements of each department and suggest economies in expenditure. I am now

2nd July 1957] [Sri T. M. Narayanaswamy Pillai]

referring to the figures of 1936 for the composite State of Madras, which comprised Malabar, South Kanara and Andhra. It was Rs. 276 lakhs. Now for this State alone, it is Rs. 476 lakhs. The deficit in the Budget is of the order of 4 per cent of the total expenditure. The deficit could be made up immediately in a way other than by levying taxes. Deficit Budgets are a feature which may be necessary once in a way. But if they should become the order of the day, then they will undermine the confidence of the public in the Government. Unless there is absolute necessity, they are not to be resorted to. I say this not on my own authority. I happened to be a Member of the Retrenchment Committee of 1930-31 when the revenues of the State were 16 to 17 crores of rupees. There came a crisis on account of the slump in prices in the 30's and it resulted in the constitution of a Retrenchment Committee. Sir Stokes was a Member of the Committee. Mr. Souter, then was the First Member of the Board of Revenue. He called the heads of departments and said. "Look here, this is a very serious situation; you cut your expenditure by adopting all conceivable means by 20 per cent immediately." So, if such orders can be issued now and the heads of departments asked to cut their expenditure by 4 per cent, the deficit can be bridged. You can restore the cut later when the situation permits. So, that is the only way to save the situation.

I won't take any more of your time, Sir. Thank you.

* SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir. I approach the Budget both as a teacher and as a common man. As a teacher, I am sincerely thankful to the Government and the Hon. the Finance Minister for the help that they have given to the teachers. They have treated them on a par with the non-gazetted officers of the Government in the matter of dearness allowance recently sanctioned, viz., five and seven rupees. It was brought to the notice of the Government yesterday in this House that some of the managements had not paid this extra dearness allowance to their teachers. The Hon. the Finance Minister has been kind enough to pass an order that aided institutions can draw fifty per cent of this enhanced dearness allowance in advance. So, if institutions draw 50 per cent of the enhanced dearness allowance, for six months, they can pay enhanced dearness allowance. We suggested two things. One is, in the absence of any statement from the Government that they would meet the extra expenditure entirely, the managements may be empowered to levy a special fee. The other is, the managements may raise their fees which they are entitled to levy, the Government agreeing to compensate them at the enhanced rates. Pending settlement, the Government have not decided favourably these questions. I understand it is under the active consideration of the Government and we are thankful to the Government for it. Therefore, the managements can now pay this enhanced dearness allowance with the advance grant that they are entitled to draw.

4-10
p.m.

[Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan] [2nd July 1957]

Sir, as I said earlier, I approach this Budget as a common man. The previous speaker, the hon. Member Sri Narayanaswamy Pillai, has convincingly pointed out how the rise in food prices has upset the common man. As a common man, I am not at all convinced about the reason for this rise in prices. Something must be done to reduce the prices. The rise in prices has been going on since January 1956. However, I am glad to note in the statement made by the Hon. the Finance Minister in his Budget speech that the Government are aware of this fact and that they are trying to bring down the prices. It is stated therein that fair price shops have been opened in many places. I may, however, bring to the notice of the Hon. the Finance Minister that the quality of rice sold in these shops is very poor. It is not at all good. Therefore, I would earnestly plead with the Government that steps should be taken to bring down the prices. The ordinary man sees only this. Why have the prices risen and why are they rising still? The common man does not care whether money is invested in heavy industries or not. He wants food-stuffs at reasonable prices. The Budget speech proceeds with the optimism that we have had reasonable rainfall, that the south west monsoon set in in time, that the north-east monsoon has been favourable, and that there has been an increase in production of groundnut by about 6 per cent and of sugarcane by 17 per cent. Yet, people are puzzled to find that the price of groundnut oil has increased and that the price of sugar also has increased. The Government have admitted the increase in prices. At the same time, they say that they will watch the situation. At the end of the statement, the Government have said, 'We must accept these temporary inconveniences in good spirit since there can be no two opinions about our present need for rapid industrialization. The situation is expected to be trying for another two years till the bulk of the new units go into production and, in the meanwhile, we should take all other possible steps to mitigate the hardship'. I hope that steps will be taken from now onwards to see that the prices do not go up still further.

The next point is that, if the Government want to increase agricultural production, they must provide sufficient irrigation facilities. The late Sri Srinivasa Ayyangar suggested that the Ganges and the rivers in the South should be connected by a link canal system. We have been hearing in the last few days the suggestion made that the waters of the Godavari should be made available to the South. Very recently, the Hon. the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has said that there would be no objection to the Godavari water being made available to the South. I would plead with the Government to take steps to see that the Godavari water is made available to some districts in the South such as Chingleput, South Arcot, North Arcot and Tanjore, if possible. This 'link canal system' we must have. I should like to point out here one thing. Ministers seem to have two voices. They should kindly excuse me for saying this. When they are in their own State,

2nd July 1957] [Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan]

they talk as though the rivers are their own and claim that those rivers belong to them and to their State only and that, therefore, they would not part even with a drop of water. But when they go to Delhi, they say, 'We are all citizens of India. We must enjoy the fruits of all India'. In actual practice, they do not do so. I would request this Government to press upon the Government of India that the rivers of India are national rivers and should be utilised for the benefit of all States and that no State can have any exclusive right to the waters of these rivers. In some of the States, especially in Kerala, they are unable to use the waters of the rivers flowing there and, therefore, much of the water is wasted. They would rather allow the water to go to waste than allow another to utilise the waters now running waste into the sea.

Under 'Animal Husbandry', I am glad to note that the Government have formulated a scheme on the lines of the 'Aarey Milk Scheme' of Bombay. Anyone who has seen that colony will certainly be impressed with it and would like to have such a scheme in Madras. Madras is growing rapidly in population. The sooner the scheme is taken up and completed, the better. Otherwise, the health of the people of the State will be immensely affected.

I now come to 'Housing'. At the last educational conference, teachers brought to our notice certain difficulties which they were experiencing, especially teachers in schools under local bodies. They are frequently transferred. I would earnestly request the Hon. the Minister for Education and the Hon. the Minister in charge of Local Administration to see that teachers are not transferred unnecessarily. The immediate result of their being transferred from place to place is that efficiency goes down. Another difficulty is that, when women teachers are transferred to distant places, they are not able to get houses. They are stranded. Therefore, they apply for leave and go away. In many cases, they resign their jobs. (An hon. Member: Family separation.) It is inevitable when one takes up a Government job. Under housing scheme for teachers, there are a number of schemes. I am told that under none of these the managements of aided institutions can construct houses for their teachers. It is not possible for any teacher to invest money because he has no money. My suggestion is that, if under the existing schemes the managements cannot construct houses for their teachers, then there must be a separate scheme which would enable them to construct houses for the teachers. The sooner this is thought of the better. There are distinct advantages in doing this. The teachers will live near the school. They can devote more time to their work. They will not be put to any hardship at all. Especially in cities like Madras it is very difficult to find accommodation for teachers.

About water-supply schemes, the Government are taking active steps and I am really thankful to them for it. In the City of

[Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan]

[2nd July 1957]

Madras the schools are not provided with copious water-supply. I have already appealed to the Corporation authorities in this connection that they should not apply the ordinary rules to schools. The schools require copious water-supply and in places where there are no pipe systems, digging of wells is very necessary. Recently I visited some of the schools in Salem district. That district is notorious for scarcity of water and water is got only at a depth of 70 or 80 feet. In one particular school water could not be had at all. Water for the school is got from some other place. The Government should give freely financial aid to see that at least two or three wells are sunk in each of the schools because the health of the children is very important.

Coming to 'Education', the Budget speech states, 'The recommendations of the Committee of this Legislature on Education Policy are now under examination'. How long are they to be under examination, I do not know. Syllabus Committees have been formed and they are drawing up the syllabi. That being so, what is the implication of the sentence, 'The recommendations of the Committee of this Legislature on Education Policy are now under examination'? Are they going to consider it *de novo*? I am afraid that if this is the policy they are going to adopt, nothing will be steady. I take it for granted that they have accepted the recommendation of the Legislature Committee.

In that same paragraph it is stated, '... a provision of Rs. 23 lakhs has been made for the conversion of ordinary training schools into basic training schools'. It is good that such a large amount has been provided but they must take care to see that qualified teaching personnel are posted to these schools. Because in the last one or two years I found inexperienced B.T.'s being posted as Professors in training colleges without any teaching experience at all either in a college or in a high school, I make this suggestion. If such people are appointed, I think the training institutions cannot do any good. We want experienced teachers there. As a matter of fact, I know Superintendents of the office of the Director of Public Instruction are posted as Headmasters of training institutions, and as School Assistants. Do the Government think that they can achieve anything by converting these ordinary training institutions into basic training institutions by spending large amounts when there is not this required teaching personnel? Do the Government think that they can improve them in that way? Aided training colleges, I should say, are in a much better position. They have got experienced men there. It is only in the Government institutions that they have not got them. I would, therefore, suggest that those on the administrative side should ever remain on the administrative side and those on the educational side should be on the educational side. If this is done, the quality of education will improve.

2nd July 1957] [Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan]

My hon. Friend, Sri G. Krishnamoorthy, yesterday referred to the content of education and the agency system. I am really sorry that I am unable to agree with his views on these matters. He said that aided agencies should be abolished or that they should be made to deposit 80 per cent of the school-fees in the Government treasury and that Headmasters should draw every month the salary bills of teachers and so on. I wish to give figures to show the great service rendered by aided institutions. Let us consider the income and expenditure of a school with Forms I to VI. For Forms I to III, at the rate of 45 pupils per Form, the annual income comes to Rs. 5,400 at Rs. 4 per month or Rs. 40 per annum per pupil (135×40). For Forms IV to VI, for the same number of pupils, the annual income comes to Rs. 10,800 at Rs. 8 per month or Rs. 80 per annum per pupil. The total fee income is Rs. 16,200. The expenditure on the establishment is as follows :—

4-20
p.m.

	RS.
One Headmaster	200
Three L.Ts. at Rs. 100 each	300
Three Secondary Grade teachers at Rs. 60 each	180
Two Tamil Pandits at Rs. 60 each	120
One Hindi Pandit at Rs. 60	60
One Drawing Master	60
One Drillmaster	60
One Clerk	60
Three peons, attenders, watchman, etc. at Rs. 15	45
Total	1,085

I have excluded dearness allowance from this calculation. Dearness allowance is paid at an average rate of Rs. 36. This comes to about Rs. 576 per month. The total then comes to Rs. 1,661 per month. Therefore, the annual expenditure comes to Rs. 19,932 or Rs. 20,000 in round figures against an annual income of Rs. 16,200 at the enhanced rates of Rs. 4 in the lower Forms and Rs. 8 in the higher Forms. Therefore, even if the management invests the whole amount in Government treasury, could we meet this expenditure? Besides the annual expenditure of Rs. 20,000, the management has to find money for its contribution to the provident fund, for ordinary repairs to and upkeep of buildings, taxes, and its share of expenditure on library, laboratory equipment and furniture. Again it has to find money for capital expenditure. The management will immediately reduce the school-fees if the Government are prepared to meet the entire expenditure. The fees will be reduced to the standard rates of Rs. 2-12-0 in the lower Forms and Rs. 5-4-0 in the higher Forms. But the Government will also reduce the salaries of the teachers. My hon. Friend wants that teachers should be better paid. What happens now is that the aided managements find the money for their expenditure and for the other things they do. I will read here

[Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan] [2nd July 1957]

the pertinent paragraph from the Report of the Legislature Committee on the White Paper on Education. In the sub-paragraph of paragraph 41 of the Report it is stated :—

“ Our observations regarding the limited role of private schools for purposes of future development apply only to Elementary Schools. Secondary Education has owed a great deal in the past to the initiative and public spirit of private managements, and the generosity of private individuals and institutions. This will continue to be necessary and will, we hope, be forthcoming in the future no less than in the past. There is an important difference between Elementary Schools and Secondary Schools. The entire recurring expenditure on aided Elementary Schools is met by Government and the requirements of non-recurring expenditure are relatively small. The non-recurring expenditure needed for Secondary Schools is relatively large. The greater part of such expenditure is met by private funds . . . ”

If we take buildings, we see that the Government contribution is Rs. 35,000. But the buildings cost Rs. 2 lakhs. Wherever they may be, the aided managements get this amount by going from door to door for subscriptions and so on. I submit, Sir, that aided managements are not making any profit.

SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAI: Cannot we have small buildings?

* SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN: Even small buildings cost much. There is the most unfortunate expression in the Grant-in-Aid Code, namely, that the managements are allowed to accumulate their profit. There is no profit at all. The hon. the Leader of the Opposition knows full well that it is only in other States that there are what are called proprietary schools. In this State every secondary school must have a registered management. If there is any surplus—there is no question of profit—the members of the committee of management do not take it away. The surplus is accumulated for various purposes. Since 1950, the Government have been auditing these accounts. The private agencies are playing a large part in this matter. They will continue to play a large part in future also. For Heaven's sake, do not nationalise these aided institutions. We have got the Muhammadan Educational Association, the Catholic Educational Association, the Christian Educational Association, and the Ramakrishna Mission Educational Association. There are many other Educational Associations which are doing very good work. If the Government nationalise education, there will be nothing but regimentation of ideas and there would not be any education at all. The Government may be sure of this. The present system of education has been found fault with. I should like to know whether the system of education under which we received instruction is really such a bad one. If really it is a bad one, then there would not have been this democratic Government functioning here, and there would not have been these two general elections. Of course, as time changes,

2nd July 1957] [Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan]

education also will have to change here and there. But, fundamentally, education cannot change. It is the politicians that used to say in 1947, "This education must go; the present set of teachers are quite unfit." I put this question to the Hon. Minister then. "Let all the present teachers be taken away. How will the Government find 1½ lakhs of teachers to replace the present teachers? Where will the Government find new teachers? They can get the books from the shop. They can get furniture from the shop. But can they get teachers to meet their requirements? Is this possible? First, let the training institutions be reorganised." We are the products of the so-called bad education which enables us seriously to think over this educational problem, and which has given us power of discrimination. Then, why cry against this education? Please, for Heaven's sake, do not cry against this education which is not so bad after all. Please do not cry against the aided managements. In other countries we find that aided managements play a noble part. Here, so far as secondary education is concerned, aided managements have played a notable part.

I now come to the question of giving temporary recognition. There are a very large number of schools which are getting recognition temporarily year after year for the last 50 years. Till the temporary recognition for the year is got, the institutions cannot draw any advance at all. The temporary recognition for the year 1957-58 will come in January 1958, and the managements cannot get any advance until then. Therefore, I would request the Government to see that institutions which have been classified for the past six years as temporarily recognized, should be immediately given permanent recognition.

The last speaker and other speakers also mentioned about getting seats in the medical colleges and so on. This is a very difficult subject, of course. I am not going to enter into this subject, because nobody can solve this problem satisfactorily. Everybody wants seats on the basis of merit, etc. One thing I should like to say here. The University has solved one great problem. A few years back, the students found it extremely difficult to get seats in colleges. Now they are able to get seats, though it may be that they are not able to get seats in the colleges in which they want them. Thanks to the University liberalising the rules, it has now become possible for any student to get admission to the Intermediate Class or the Pre-University Class. It is only in the case of professional colleges that there is difficulty in getting admission. I should like, in this connection, to bring to the notice of this Government that the really talented pupils are unable to get admission to the professional colleges on account of certain limiting factors. These pupils, when they become frustrated, are a great menace to society. The State also loses the services of these talented pupils. Something must be done to see that these pupils get admission somehow or other. I know that there are limitations in the way and that the

[Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan] [2nd July 1957]

Government have got to fulfil their obligations to backward communities. I do admit this. Considering all these things, I should like the Government to see whether something could be done to these pupils, who get frustrated. When they do not get admission, as I put it earlier, they become a menace to society and turn out to be Communists.

We see in the Budget speech that the strength of the polytechnics is being raised from 1,100 to 1,600 in the current year.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The suggestion is that it should be four times the number in the engineering colleges.

*** SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN :** I consider this in this way. There are seventy or eighty high schools which give instruction in pre-technological course which is one of the bifurcated courses. If all the pupils of these schools are to be absorbed, the number would come to about 1,600 or 1,700. I find that a broader view is taken in the matter. More institutions must be started to enable more pupils to get admission in these institutions at various levels. We want skilled men not only at the top level but also at the various lower levels. We hope the Government will increase the number in the coming years.

Then, there is also one other thing. The Secondary Education Commission recommended that in the case of pupils who took 'Engineering' in the High School course, the pre-technological course need not be a four-year course and that the duration of the course could be reduced to three years. If this recommendation is accepted and given effect to, more boys will take to this course with joy and it will be a very popular course.

4.30
p.m.

Then, it is stated in the Budget speech—

“The organization of technical education is now under the control of two heads of departments, the Director of Public Instruction and the Director of Industries and Commerce. Both these officers have large and growing departments to manage and may not be able to devote undivided attention to technical education. The All-India Council of Technical Education and its Southern Regional Committee have recommended the setting up of a separate Directorate to take over all aspects of technical education and the Government have decided to implement that recommendation forthwith.”

This is a good feature which we welcome.

Sir, I would like to refer to another matter. Last time the hon. the Leader of the Opposition made a suggestion that there should be an Advisory Board attached to each Ministry but the Government did not approve of that on the ground that in a democratic Government it was not necessary. But I would respectfully submit that it is absolutely essential that we should have such an

2nd July 1957] [Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan]

Advisory Board so far as education is concerned. It was in existence till a few years ago when it was abolished. After all, the Board will meet once or twice a year and I appeal to the Government to constitute such an Advisory Board of Education. It may be called the State Advisory Board of Education. It will discuss matters concerning elementary, secondary and university education in a general way. It will be very helpful if we have such a Board.

Now, I want to say something about the reorganization of districts though I am not a politician. But I may tell the Government, 'Do not bother yourself about the reorganization or bifurcation of districts or any such thing. Put off all those things for some years to come. We have had enough of headache, and do not bring in all these things by saying that local sentiments and traditions should be respected.' The moment the Government introduce the reorganization scheme, there will be demand that this or that district should be bifurcated. For instance, there is a village very near Arkonam where my mother was born. It was once part of the Chittoor district and then it was in the North Arcot district. Then, again, it has been transferred to the Chittoor district. Now there is the Tiruttani agitation. So, why rake up all these things now? Let the Government concentrate their attention on increasing agricultural production. If we increase food production, many problems will be solved.

Sir, a few days ago we read in the newspapers that the Central Government were going to help the State Governments in raising the salaries of secondary school teachers, without insisting upon the matching grant. Hitherto, they were insisting upon the matching grant by the State Governments but now they are not doing so. So, we are thankful to the Central Government and also to the Madras Government. As a matter of fact, the Secondary Education Commission has recommended that a major part of the expenditure incurred on elementary education must be borne by the Central Government. If we want to make education compulsory for children up to the age of 14, it is the duty of the Central Government to come forward to meet at least 75 per cent of the expenditure. So far as secondary education is concerned, they must bear at least 50 per cent of the expenditure. As the Secondary Education Commission has already made such a recommendation, I would request the Government to press this upon the Central Government.

Now, I come to the Pension Rules for teachers. Rule 10 (b) says—

"If there are breaks in service on account of retrenchment for want of vacancy or for similar reasons beyond the control of the person concerned, they shall not have the effect of forfeiting past service; but if the breaks are occasioned by reason of resignation, the past service shall not be taken into account without the specific orders of the Government."

[Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan] [2nd July 1957]

The first part of it is good. But the second part of it is not so as, in the case of aided institutions, there is no question of transfer of a teacher from one institution to another. For instance, if a teacher of an aided institution resigns on the 10th June, the opening day of the school, and joins another aided institution on the 15th June, there will be that technical break in service. I have already represented to the Hon. the Minister for Education that such breaks in service should also be condoned.

Sir, a few months ago the Hon. the Chief Minister said at some place that red tape would have to go and that action should be taken very quickly. As far as the Education Department is concerned, I would plead with the Government that red-tapism should go. What happens now is this. When a building plan is submitted and approved by the District Educational Officer, it goes to the Divisional Inspector and then it goes to the Director of Public Instruction. This takes more than 20 months for final sanction. This kind of red-tapism should go, and when the plan is approved by the District Educational Officer, the Divisional Inspector or the Director of Public Instruction should visit the site and immediately dispose of the paper.

With regard to raising of money for the Second Five-Year Plan, it has been suggested that hereafter we must look to small savings. In this connection, I made a suggestion some years back, but our State Government have not seriously considered it. Now, the teachers are contributing to the Provident Fund. Their contributions together with the contributions of the managements are now deposited in the Post Office Savings Bank. It is the Central Government that now enjoy the advantages of these deposits, and they give only 2½ per cent as interest. I have been suggesting that the local Government should utilise them. There are nearly 1,20,000 teachers. If they contribute Rs. 6 lakhs every month, it would come to about Rs. 72 lakhs in a year. How much will it come to in 20 years? Our Government can pass orders that these contributions should be deposited in the local treasury or sub-treasury so that they may utilize them. That is being done in the Travancore-Cochin State.

Sir, I have nothing more to say except to refer to the position of the common man. I feel that the prices of foodgrains should be brought down. Whatever reasons the Government may give, people will not be convinced about them. We want sufficient food at a reasonable price. If we are not able to control the price, I am afraid people will lose faith in the Government and they will be justified in losing faith if the Government do not bring down the price.

4-40 P.M. * SRI V. R. RANGANATHAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, very rarely does it happen that the Opposition as a whole seems to praise the Budget and point out its merits rather than criticise it. As

2nd July 1957]

[Sri V. R. Ranganathan]

*pointed out by many of the speakers, unlike the numerous taxes imposed by the Central Government, this State Budget provides for hardly any new taxation. We all on this side of the House like it. But still we would have been happier if the proposal enhancement in sales tax had been restricted to commodities other than foodstuffs. Not that it would have meant much, but I should say that if they had exempted foodstuffs from it, it would have been a good gesture and the merchants would also make an attempt to reduce the prices of food articles. The other thing is about enhancement in agricultural income-tax. I do not know how exactly it will affect the plantation industry. But what I feel is that it is likely to affect our foreign exchange position. The only plantation products that are exported are pepper, coconut, coffee and tea. If the prices of these articles are enhanced, there would surely be a set-back in our dollar earning capacity.

Sir, about agriculture, the learned Vice-Chancellor of the Annamalai University has already referred to seed farms. It is an excellent idea to start seed farms throughout the State so that each area might be served with seeds suitable for that particular area, and it will also result in increased production. The next thing in relation to agricultural production is irrigation facilities. Sir, I am afraid that sufficient provision has not been made for minor irrigation in areas where it is necessary. Ever since we got independence, we have been concentrating on major irrigation projects because they are more showy and very impressive. But, in the long run, it may be helpful to pay attention to minor irrigation also and it should also be given equal importance, because large tracts of agricultural lands in the dry areas like South Arcot, North Arcot and Chingleput depend upon minor irrigation. Sufficient attention has not been paid to this. Not only the provision in the Budget is very meagre but also I am afraid that the necessary personnel are not there and that the provision is quite inadequate. Our Revenue Department is not very enthusiastic about minor irrigation because it does not yield adequate revenue. There is also the question of silt in the small tanks which irrigate these dry areas. I was told that in one tank the silt deposit had accumulated to 18 inches and that nobody was worried about it. It is a huge task to remove the silt. When water-supply is also not adequate, it is not good to allow silt to accumulate. For, whatever meagre water we get, it will be sinking into the silt deposit, will not be of any use to the people, and will not be available for irrigation purposes. I would like to impress upon the Government that these things should be attended to first so that agricultural production may be increased and the problem of food deficit may be solved.

As has already been referred to by so many hon. Members, we are very happy that the benefits given to the Non-Gazetted Officers are being extended to the teachers and we are also happy that the village officers are to receive similar benefits. But the trouble is that with the continuous rise in the emoluments of these servants,

[Sri V. R. Ranganathan]

[2nd July 1957]

the cost of living is also rising and the rise in pay, etc., will be found very inadequate in another two or three years. Therefore, every time there is rise in the cost of living, the cry for increased pay, etc., will also be raised. Therefore, unless we make strenuous efforts to bring down the prices—how it is going to be done I do not know—there is no use of affording temporary increases in the emoluments of the staff.

Sir, regarding technical education referred to in the Budget, I am so happy that it is proposed to have a separate Directorate for technical education. As stated by the learned Vice-Chancellor, we in the Education Department have been recommending the same. Though not a separate Directorate, we had been recommending previously that the engineering colleges should be taken out of the purview of the Director of Public Instruction. I said some time back that the Law College should be taken out of the control of the Education Department and I think it has since been done. I think that similarly, this should be done with regard to technical education. My own experience is that it is very difficult for the Education Department to manage all these engineering colleges. We were not trained on those lines and we were only catering to the ordinary, general education of the people. Whatever the experts said we had to accept; we could not quarrel with them. Therefore, it is a good thing to have a separate Directorate for technical education and remove the engineering colleges from the control of the Director of Public Instruction.

As regards the proposal to reduce expenditure, well, this should have been done long ago. But whatever it is, as pointed out by the learned Vice-Chancellor of the Annamalai University, it ought to be done very quickly. We have appointed so many committees and as pointed out by the hon. Member, Sri Narayanaswamy Pillai, he himself was on one of these Committees. Quite recently, I think in 1947 or 1948, a Committee was appointed, with the late Ramalingam Chettiar as Chairman, to go into the question of retrenchment of expenditure on public administration. But what came out of it? Its Report has been published, but no orders have been passed. It is, therefore, absolutely necessary that quick action should be taken on any proposal. In this connexion, I may make a suggestion and that is that, instead of appointing one Special Officer, however experienced he may be, it would be useful to have on the Committee non-officials also, for after all, there is always a non-official point of view on questions. Some time back the House appointed a Committee and the Government appointed an officer of the Civil Services to make suggestions in regard to reducing expenditure on revenue administration. Some orders have been passed. Here, one other thing is that instead of suggesting retrenchment and an effective way to control expenditure, that particular Report suggested increase of officers. That very often happens where officials have to deal with these things. Therefore, it is much better that one or two non-officials are also associated.

2nd July 1957]

SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAJ : Why not the whole Committee be of non-officials only?

* **SRI V. R. RANGANAHTAN** : I do not know how far it would be workable. It is better to associate non-officials.

SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAJ : An Official Committee, with or without non-officials and presided over by an official, cannot be expected to treat the subject as non-officials would do. Therefore, it is better to have a Committee purely of non-officials.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I think the discussion is very much aside the actual point at issue. The official appointed will work under the Sub-Committee of the Cabinet and, therefore, the Report of the official will be submitted to the Sub-Committee of the Cabinet which is going to make the retrenchment.

* **SRI V. R. RANGANATHAN** : My point is that the official's report will be the basis of discussion in the Cabinet and that there will be only the official viewpoint. Therefore, if non-officials are also there, it may be helpful.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The Sub-Committee contemplated is the Cabinet Sub-Committee.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : My submission is that Members have a lot of sympathy for the Ministers who have too much work. We want their responsibility to be reduced and, therefore, say, 'Why not shove that responsibility on to some non-official Members?'

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I do not know whether the hon. Member Mr. Mohamed Raza Khan is suggesting retrenchment of Minister.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Not at all. Only reduce the work of the Ministers.

* **SRI V. R. RANGANATHAN** : There are one or two things which I want to say but which may not be quite relevant to the Budget on hand but which may be of general interest. There is talk about increasing the number of seats in the engineering colleges and we have seen experts report that they would need 1,200 Engineers for the new projects and 10,000 Assistant Engineers for various jobs. Now, what is happening to our Engineers? The Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University who is here would be able to tell us that most of them are not employed in the manner they ought to be. B.E.'s are employed as store-keepers and tracers. One is kept in charge of stores, cement stores, iron and steel stores, etc. His duty is to maintain registers, enter the incoming and outgoing stocks and do some such clerical job. All our Junior Engineers and Supervisors are doing this kind of work. They are all B.E.'s.

[Sri V. R. Ranganathan]

[2nd July 1957]

Where are the Minor Irrigation Overseers and Licenciate supervisors? After all, for a store-keepers's job, an upper division clerk will do. I was reminded by a big industrialist in Bombay recently when I visited him that we were not properly utilising our engineers. I took an engineering graduate with me to him. He was asked what he was doing. The engineer replied that he was employed in the Neiveli Project and that he was in charge of the cement stores and controlling the same. Asked what he meant by 'controlling', he said, 'I keep an issue and receipt register; I am also testing the quality of cement received.' 'Is it being tested by the Government?', the gentleman asked. 'Yes', the young man replied. Then the gentleman said, 'Your Government is foolish in wasting your talents on doing a job which is done by a non-professional man well.' This is how many of our B.E.'s are not engaged properly. Many of them have told me, four or five years after they left the college, they have forgotten their work. I think it is Mr. O. P. Ramaswami Reddiar, during his Chief-Ministership, that found this defect and immediately ordered the reopening of the Overseer course. The jobs now held by the B.E.'s mostly are meant for people who hold certificates and diplomas and not degrees. I think there is a wrong impression on the part of the employers that a highly qualified man will do a lower job much better. A man who is highly qualified is not satisfied if he is not given the proper job. He is discontented with his present lot. Put him in the job for which he is qualified and he will be able to do much better.

Sir, appointing graduates and Honours-men to clerical posts is another waste. Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar's Committee has submitted a report and it is there. If the Government will only implement some of its recommendations, they will be much useful to the educational institutions in that they will be able to prevent overcrowding in those institutions.

About the treatment of the blind in the State, I want to say a word. You will be surprised to know, Sir, that the General Hospital does not admit blind boys from the Poonamallee Blind School. A boy was recently sent over there. He was kept in the hospital for five days and then discharged. He was in the streets. There was no information about him. Somebody, it seems, directed him to go to the Stanley Hospital and with the help of that generous-hearted person, he was admitted there. One week later, he died. I, being the Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Poonamallee Blind School, started correspondence with the Director of Medical Services. The final orders of the Director were that without a 'sighted assistant' he could not admit as an in-patient anybody from the school. Does it mean that the General Hospital is not open to the blind? How are persons operated on both eyes led and guided in the Eye Hospital? It is lack of imagination and lack of sympathy and I would like attention to be paid by the Hon. Minister-in-charge of Health on this. There are a lot of papers on this subject and I do not want to divulge their contents just now.

2nd July 1957] [Sri V. R. Ranganathan]

The next point I wish to refer to is this. In one of the big high schools under private management in the State, the Headmaster was dismissed from service one day. In the natural course, he appealed to the Director of Public Instruction who took nine months to pass orders reinstating him in service. But the management took the matter in appeal to the High Court, which, however, upheld the Director's order. The management next went to the Supreme Court, which confirmed the High Court's judgment and rejected the appeal of the management. Then what happened? The man was restored on a particular day. But the next day he was suspended from service and on the third day he was dismissed. Where is justice for him? How can a Headmaster fight a big management in a Court—High Court and the Supreme Court? But this man did it because the Teachers' Guild gave the money and enabled him to fight. Till today, he has not been given his back pay. You can imagine his plight.

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIAR : Under the Education Act passed in Great Britain, the Government would have taken over the institution and dismissed the management under similar circumstances. I would like some such thing being done here.

* **SRI V. R. RANGANATHAN :** Such a thing occurred in my own time as Director. We withdrew the recognition of the school although very powerful forces were at work because the management was in the wrong. Why not do it now in respect of the case I have mentioned? Anyhow, there is a case for revision of the agreement between the management and the employees. You cannot dismiss a labourer now from any factory. The employer will be hauled up. But you can dismiss a teacher with impunity.

Lastly, everybody talks about the Five-Year Plan. I am afraid we are making a fetish of the Plan now. In the old days, we used to have tribal gods. Now, in modern India, this Plan has become a god which requires human sacrifice. That is what it means. Are we going to sacrifice the present for the future? After all, it is the man that counts. Of course, in Europe, some time ago, they tried to make the State a demigod and everybody was sacrificed for its glorification. I hope it will not be done here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now adjourn and meet again at 3 p.m. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned.

IV.—PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

* 97. *The Payment of Wages (Madras Amendment) Bill, 1957.*